

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA  
ANNUAL RETREAT  
FY 2005/06  
December 12, 2005**

The Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, met for their Annual Retreat December 12, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. with Chairman Proctor presiding.

Present were Commissioners Thael; Sauls; Winchester; Grippa; Rackleff; and DePuy. Also present were County Attorney Herb Thiele; County Administrator Parwez Alam; and Board Secretary I Diane F. Norvell.

Guest: Vice Chairman Kessler, Wakulla Springs County Commission

Purpose: To create a list of priorities for FY 2005/06

**I. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING COMMENTS**

**Invocation**

The Invocation was provided by Chairman Proctor.

Chairman Proctor followed the procedure of the Annual Retreat by turning over the Meeting to County Administrator Parwez Alam, to Facilitate.

- County Administrator Alam provided an overview of the format for the meeting:
  - A list of priority issues has been established by the Commissioners for discussion.
  - Each Commissioner who has put an issue up for discussion will briefly comment on that issue.
  - Then each Commissioner will 'grade' the items by numbering their importance between 7 – 1. #7 being the highest priority an item can receive.
  
- The County Administrator reported that a review of prior year priorities would be provided by the Senior Assistant to the County Administrator, Andrea Simpson.

**Ground Rules:**

- Listen carefully – be open to new ideas
- Everyone participates – no one dominates
- Seek out differences of opinion – it is okay to disagree

- Honor time limits

## **II. OVERVIEW OF RANKING PROCESS**

- Brainstorm list of ideas
- Clarification/Discussion of ideas
- Prioritization/Ranking of each Commissioners top 7 ideas
- Only ideas receiving four or more votes will be placed on Priority List

## **III. REVIEW OF PRIOR YEAR PRIORITIES**

**The County Administrator will provide:**

- Five year history of retreat priorities
- Status Report of priorities completed in FY 04/05

Andrea Simpson, Senior Assistant to the County Administrator presented an over view of the previous five year history of retreat priorities. Ms. Simpson referred to Attachment #1 of the packet that outlined the Board's priorities for those years. She reported the priorities that are reoccurring are:

Attachment I      Economic development  
                         Leon County Jail Issues  
                         Joint Dispatch  
                         Healthcare  
                         Southern Strategy  
                         TMDL's or Water Resource Issues

Attachment II      Review of last year's priorities  
                         Includes a breakdown of components approved for Staff to work on  
                         Updates the standing of these priorities and their components

- Ms. Simpson stated that as the Commissioner's know, Staff provides the Board a quarterly update on these priorities. There haven't been any substantive changes since the October, 2005 Report. Staff is present for any questions regarding specifics on any of these priorities.

## **IV. BRAINSTORM LIST**

- County Administrator Alam indicated the last page of the Commissioners' packets listed Commission Discussion Issues under the corresponding Commissioner for reference. County Administrator Alam reported this list could be added to.

- Commissioner Sauls asked about the issues that are on the list every year. She suggested the Board concentrate on the new issues.
- Commissioner Grippa stated two issues he considers administrative i.e., the Sister/County Agreement with Prince George, MD. He asked why they would have issues that are not germane to Leon County on the list. i.e., solar energy plant proposal.
- County Administrator Alam suggested the Commissioners point out any items on the list they believe should be moved to 'administrative' items instead of discussion.
- The County Administrator then asked the Commissioners to inform him of any add-on issues they would like to discuss.

**ADD-ONS:**

**Commissioner DePuy**

Over crowding of jails

**Commissioner Grippa**

Non-partisan elections for constitutional officers  
Voluntary contribution for indigent healthcare funding

**Commissioner Winchester**

Spray irrigation impacts on Wakulla Springs

**Commissioner Proctor**

Unification of services

**Commissioner Rackleff**

Redevelopment of the fairgrounds

*County Administrator Alam indicated there are now 32 issues to be considered for discussion/possible placement on the priority list by the Board. Each Commissioner will now briefly discuss the issues they outlined for consideration.*

**V. CLARIFICATION/DISCUSS**

Clarify and idea whose meaning is unclear. Provide enough information so that the issue can be understood by all. Combine ideas which are similar. Discuss issues in more detail, where necessary.

*The following ideas were presented and discussed. Issues appear in the order they were discussed by the Commission. Comments on issues also appear in the order they were made.*

**COMMISSIONER PROCTOR**

❖ **Wesson School (Proctor)**

He believes Superintendent Montford is working on a project to turn Wesson School into a Senior Center. This may be more of an administrative item.

**Commissioner Proctor stated he would like to withdraw this item from the Retreat Issues to be Discussed and move it to an Administrative Item.**

County Administrator Alam:

*This will come before the Board as an Administrative Item as will Affordable Housing. Both the City/County would need to put forth monies.*

❖ **Uninsured Healthcare – ½ cent sales tax (Proctor)**

This item is to bring up the serious need for Leon County to have Comprehensive Healthcare. It does touch upon placing a half cent tax on the ballot in November, 2006. The need for these services is well documented.

**Wants the Board to vote on this as part of the Priorities to be Discussed.**

- Commissioner Rackleff noted the Uninsured Healthcare Issue is similar to two priorities on his list – 1) Primary health care program advocated by TEAM and 2) A broad discussion about a new half cent sales tax for possible uses for health care, Performing Arts Center, (PFA) and financial support for FSU. Commissioner Rackleff stated he phrased his issues with this language because various players within the community are asking for funding out of the half cent sales tax, not only for the healthcare system, but also for FSU and the PFA.

❖ **Gadsden County Hospital Closing (Proctor)**

County Administrator Alam:

*This will be an administrative item.*

❖ **Sister County Agreement with Prince Georges County, MD (Proctor)**

County Administrator Alam:

*This will be an administrative item.*

❖ **Economic Development Corporation/Small Business Enterprise (Proctor)**

Thinks we can expand our own Office here to expand businesses right here in Leon County.

**Would like to leave this item on the priority issue list.**

**After Board discussion this item was moved to an Administrative Issue.**

❖ **Regionalism – Chamber of Commerce and Tourist Development Council (Proctor)**

There is cultural movement in north Florida, There are many cultural similarities citizens share. Would like to see the County coordinate various festivals that are not complementing each other, when they could be. Thus these events are not attracting the number of tourists to Leon County that they could be with a wider appeal and common themes emphasized. Would like to get a formal letter out to various organizations to promote 'working together'. We have an opportunity here. Water is a 'regional' issue, as is 'environmental'. We should embrace issues that are relevant within the County therefore enhancing each others efforts in ways we currently aren't.

**COMMISSIONER DEPUY**

❖ **Leon County "Work Farm" or "Work Release Center" Concept (DePuy)**

Brings this up to ensure it doesn't get off the Board's radar. We all realize it is an omnibus matter. Instead of just adding more pods we have added \$600,000 to the Budget to be used for either 1) a work farm or 2) and /or a work release center. Capacity is added to the jail, but at a lower rate of cost. Ken Morris and he are working on this. Public Safety Coordinating Council has made a presentation. Hope to bring back recommendations to the Board next year. He has been working with Sheriff Campbell on this matter.

**Wants to leave this as a priority issue to be discussed.**

**COMMISSIONER THAELL**

❖ **Solar Power Pilot Project for Leon County Facilities (Thaell)**

Building on an issue raised by Commissioner Winchester when he introduced a resolution against the City's coal plant. There is a need for a community-wide comprehensive energy plan. Leon County could set an example for a prudent energy policy. Could require the City to buy back excess energy produced by solar and other alternative power by the County. Is suggesting in the form of regulation looking at amending our building and energy codes to include renewable energy standards, incorporate climate responsive design into building standards, provide incentives and financing mechanisms to decrease the cost of solar technology through community initiatives, provide financial

incentive for installing solar hot water systems, solar outreach education to the community in low income residences to yield substantial financial savings on utility costs.

**Suggests picking one county building as a pilot project for using solar energy – the Agricultural Extension Office on Paul Russell Road.**

- Commissioner Proctor stated Commissioner Thael's proposal is innovative and exciting. Our Governor just signed an executive order on energy last week. Who can argue this sunshine could not be captured and used as a formidable energy source. Very excited about Commissioner Thael's idea.

*Commissioner Thael discussed the benefits of this possibility for Leon County.*

- Commissioner Proctor noted a lot of support has been mentioned in articles recently regarding the use of solar energy as an alternative energy source, especially with the City's use of what seems 'regressive' energy as Commissioner Thael noted.
- Commissioner Grippa argued part of the reason solar energy is not used here is because of the hurricane risk. To put something on a roof here is basically creating a projectile. 1) – Can't keep a roof on you can't keep a solar panel on 2) Federal government has given credits for this type of thing. Constitutionally, he doesn't think Leon County could give credits for solar energy. Suggests this should rest more with the legislature and federal government as the Board tries to deal with the important issues that affect Leon County.
- Commissioner Proctor asked hadn't Commissioner Thael presented this as a 'pilot' project.
- Commissioner Thael indicated that yes he was looking at this item as a 'pilot' project.

*Commissioner Thael then discussed the issue further referencing the many potential benefits of harnessing solar energy for Leon County.*

*Commissioner Grippa and Commissioner Thael engaged in discussion of their opposing views on the viability and possible assets of this proposal.*

- Commissioner Thael asked the County Administrator if he understood correctly that all ideas were welcome and that Commissioners were supposed to be creative and respectful of each other's ideas. Commissioner Thael asked his colleagues to stay open to new ideas.

*County Administrator Alam:*

*Commissioner Thael is correct. Each Commissioner is asked to be respectful of the others' ideas and open to new views.*

❖ **Development of a comprehensive Air Quality Protection Strategy for Leon County (Thael)**

Unfortunately Leon County has poor air quality: idling of a large number of vehicles, mercury emission from coal powered plant – a long standing problem causing higher instances of asthma in Leon County.

**Proposes we look at Montgomery County's air quality program and see which ones could be applicable here.**

❖ **Injury Prevention Program (Thaell)**

We are in the unenviable position of having the highest injury related mortalities in the state of Florida. Rank within the top five. Hospital is seeking trauma center designation. Need to educate citizens on behaviors that lead to fatalities. Five different behaviors public should be made aware of.

**Proposes we initiate a program for public awareness regarding injury prevention**

**COMMISSIONER GRIPPA**

❖ **Charter Amendment to consolidate law enforcement (Grippa)**

Every year the Board puts Joint Dispatch as their number one priority. They are sitting on a time bomb. A citizen, sheriff, or TPD officer is going to get hurt. Clearly the Sheriff's Dept. and the Tallahassee Police Dept. need to do a better job of communicating. Especially after 911, and Hurricane Katrina we need to move forward to consolidate our law enforcement.

**We need to pose the question to the people to ensure that we have one emergency operations center, one dispatch center, one fire department, one EMS service – but with one leadership.**

*County Administrator Alam:*

*Asked for clarification of just what agencies would be involved - did Commissioner Grippa mean public safety as well.*

- Commissioner Grippa stated – Law Enforcement, Fire and EMS.

*County Administrator Alam:*

*If a referendum is required it would have to be a dual referendum. It would have to pass independently inside the City limits and then independently outside the City limits. 50% plus 1 – inside and 50% plus 1 outside.*

**COMMISSIONER RACKLEFF**

❖ **The primary health care program advocated by TEAM (Rackleff)**

❖ A broad discussion about a new ½ cent sales tax for possible uses for health care, performing arts center, and financial support for FSU (Rackleff)

Commissioner Rackleff stated he agreed that these two items should be considered along with Commissioner Proctor's discussion item re: Uninsured Healthcare – ½ cent sales tax.

❖ A County wide lake protection program that does not pick winners (Jackson) and losers (Upper Lafayette) (Rackleff)

Commissioner Rackleff stated we need a quality lake protection program to protect all lakes instead of singling out lakes which is in a way saying some are worthy of protection and some are not.

**COMMISSIONER SAULS**

❖ Woodville Library (Sauls)

Wants to bring issue back up. Seeking support for Board to start putting money aside for the project.

❖ Code enforcement (Sauls)

Can be moved to administrative. But really wants Board to look at how the County is doing their code enforcement. Perhaps changes are necessary. An incident in her area took place that has not been addressed for over a year now.

*County Administrator Alam:*

*This item can be moved to administrative as an agenda item or after discussion possibly schedule a Workshop on it.*

- Commissioner Sauls agreed with Commissioner DePuy's suggestion of making this a Workshop Item.

**COMMISSIONER WINCHESTER**

❖ Accelerated Funding Plan for Harbinwood Estates Sewer (Winchester)

Would like to see the Board continue to pursue this. Something in addition to federal or state attempts. Need creative financing. Other financial strategies are needed – whether this is a bond issue, or a rebate. Obviously the federal and state efforts are not working.

*County Administrator Alam:*

*An initial study has been funded for \$100,00.*

*The stormwater project is funded. Being able to do both would work out well.*



- Commissioner Sauls indicated this item has been in the Comp Plan for a long time also.

**Commissioner Proctor**

Wanted to add Emergency Preparedness. Asked if this issue was included in Commissioner Grippa's item on Law Enforcement Consolidation and Joint Dispatch.

Need to discuss emergency preparedness for hurricanes, storms. Based on the Workshop held subsequent to Hurricane Katrina there were two emergency evacuation routes 1) Mahan and 2) Woodville. Neither of these are four-laned at this time to get to I-10.

- Commissioner Proctor stated this touches on Commissioner Grippa's item re: law enforcement consolidation and joint dispatch.
- Commissioner Grippa stated his item can be broadened to include a referendum on Emergency EOC, etc.
- Commissioner Sauls noted the charter amendment terminology should be removed from Commissioner Grippa's item, then because it is a separate process.
- Commissioner Grippa agreed with Commissioner Sauls to take off the charter amendment aspect to consolidate law enforcement.

- ❖ **Law enforcement Issues (Grippa)**
- ❖ **Consolidation of Emergency Preparedness (Grippa)**
- ❖ **Joint Dispatch (Grippa)**

- Commissioner Proctor suggested we add a physical human factor i.e., flu epidemics – low in flu vaccine.

- ❖ **Would like to add Emergency Health in case of outbreaks due to an emergency. To ensure we have the correct types and amounts of vaccines if needed. (Proctor)**

**COMMISSIONER GRIPPA**

- ❖ **Non partisan elections (Grippa)**

Every other election we hold locally is non partisan; but for the constitutional officers. Doesn't think we should have a party affiliation dealing with those executive branches.

- Commissioner DePuy stated the Supervisor of Elections is non partisan. If we do this i.e., the State Attorney and the Public Defender are in many counties of the circuit so it could not be applicable to them.

**COMMISSIONER WINCHESTER**❖ **Wakulla Springs water quality (Winchester)**

Need to be more concerned about the water quality. Stormwater and spray irrigation as well. Also, we need to take a good look at the stormwater that enters Lake Lafayette. We need an action plan – is this occurring/how is it occurring/where is it coming from/what can we do to prevent it. Need to take action to limit pollution for our downstream neighbors. Wakulla Springs is a regional economic engine. Would like to address what sources of stormwater other than Lake Lafayette are entering aquifer and potentially ending up in Wakulla Springs.

**COMMISSIONER PROCTOR**❖ **Unification of City/County Services (Proctor)**

As Commissioner Sauls pointed out each year there is a repeat of the same items. We need to look at issues like Commissioner Grippa's issues – reducing the length of time on processing permits. Some people have asked do we need two commissions. Commissioner Grippa commented two commissions could help eliminate duplication of services.

**COMMISSIONER RACKLEFF**❖ **Fairgrounds Relocation (Rackleff)**

Recommended a site that is on Crawfordville Hwy, just past Publix Shopping Center, east side with the national forest behind it. Spoke with Lee Vause re: possibility of some type of exchange with the forest service for enough acres for a fairground. The access to it could be through this property – good visibility, access, off of a four lane divided highway. Could be an RFP, or by land owner, keep momentum going for fairgrounds redevelopment – vital for southside, this would help solve affordable housing problems also.

**COMMISSIONER GRIPPA**❖ **Voluntary Contribution toward indigent healthcare fund (Grippa)**

Could be done voluntarily. Similar to what the IRS does where you can donate to a political party if you choose. Also hears it's not a lot of money. It's a \$6 or \$12 contribution by a citizen rather than forcing citizens or mandating citizens to give to indigent healthcare through a very regressive sales tax which hurts the poorest people of the community.

- Commissioner Thael suggested the Board look at available renewable energy resources we already have available.
- Commissioner Grippa suggested we could look at electric hybrid cars for County Staff in an effort to save energy. A lot of buses could use an alternative fuel source.

- Commissioner Proctor asked Commissioner Thaelle if he would be open to the Board working with one of the universities on some of the energy alternative issues.
- Commissioner Thaelle said absolutely – that is part of the entire proposal - to bring in the expertise we already have right here in Leon County to look at alternative energy sources/resources. Also, Commissioner Thaelle agrees with Grippa re: collaborating with the City to switching fuel usage to bio-diesel. Looking at hybrid fleet usage. DEP is using almost all hybrids – perhaps we could work out some way to buy their used hybrid cars.

#### Commissioner Rackleff

FAMU has a green building program we could tap into. There are vast opportunities for energy efficiencies we could look into. Important to explore them and adopt what we can. Coal plant – voted against because we were going to spend \$400 million to generate more electricity we were going to continue wasting. Very important for the future to make changes.

#### Commissioner DePuy

We are not in the utility businesses. The city runs the utilities we do not. Since this now includes purchasing hybrid vehicles he is for that. That is a good idea - for us to set an example for the community.

#### Commissioner Winchester

We need to look at a comprehensive energy strategy. Let's not get hung up on where solar panels could be – on the roof or in a basement or on the side of a house. Until we are consolidated as one government we need a comprehensive energy strategy. We are citizens who use utilities. His research indicates hospitals around the state are looking at a concept called “co-generation”. These hospitals retain the energy they don't use then they sell it back to the utility. Let's focus on a comprehensive energy strategy with a variety of uses. Let's focus on the positive – on ways things *can* work not on ways things *can't* work.

- Commissioner Thaelle stated it would make sense to consolidate three of the issues then.
- Commissioner Proctor asked if there is a history on a comprehensive energy plan. Commissioner Proctor stated this dialogue is healthy and serving the purpose it was intended to – expressing, creating, and formulating new ways to better serve the citizens of Leon County.
- Commissioner Thaelle passed out a document reflecting what other counties around the country are doing in regards to energy plans.
- Commissioner Proctor asked Commissioner Grippa to include a Citizen's Review Board in his referendum proposal. We need a citizen's review board to balance total government control of issues affecting our citizens.

Commissioner Proctor asked Commissioner Grippa if he saw a component in the referendum for that.

- Commissioner Proctor asked County Attorney Thiele what if the County actually filed a lawsuit. Could this be a possibility saying our sister government – the City has placed people in peril because they are unwilling to reach an agreement with the County in regard to consolidation of law enforcement and joint dispatch and emergency services.
- Commissioner Grippa stated there has to be some solution – TPD not knowing where Sheriff's deputies are and vice versa. This has been going on for ten years. Even if a consolidation amendment doesn't make it all the way through the process would at least indicate how serious the County is – either the City and the County come together on their own - or the people are going to move them together.

### Commissioner DePuy

He and City Commissioner Lightsey have been trying to reach common ground. Notice was accepted and given between the County and the City Attorney and in a letter on Friday. It is finally recognized *in writing* that the County is the lead agency recognized by state statute on EOC. The City may have a secondary EOC. But, clearly the discretion is up to the Board of County Commissioners. In 1999 the Commission mandated Sheriff Larry Campbell be the head of EOC for the County. The chain of command is from the State to the County. In the future, The City may have an EOC, but the Sheriff and the County are first in line and have the authority to dictate, mandate and run things at the County level. This was a major accomplishment.

Most of the discussions involved Fire and EMS dispatch. An item is on the agenda for December 13, 2005 to hire a consultant to address this matter. We do not want a Fire truck and an EMS vehicle literally not knowing where the other is while someone needing services is waiting. A citizen in need could be provided service by an emergency response unit that is actually much closer to the citizen than one that may be dispatched from a longer distance due to lack of communication.

- Commissioner Proctor complimented Commissioner DePuy on achieving such a major accomplishment. Commissioner DePuy was assigned a large task. People were not willing to follow the Sheriff's leadership who had not read the law. By securing this understanding – issues will be clarified. Thanked Commissioner DePuy for his hard work and commitment to this task.
- Commissioner Proctor thanked County Attorney Herb Thiele for his advice and diligent work on these matters.
- Commissioner DePuy stated he is in favor of consolidating City/County governments. Re: charter amendment on consolidating law enforcement – dispatch is a large part of that. Until report is back perhaps we should wait to discuss the other issues involved.
- Commissioner Proctor asked if there was a consensus the Board would hold meetings at FAMU, FSU, TCC. There was general consensus.

- Commissioner Sauls commented on a situation she recently witnessed where both Fire and EMS responded and asked if the Fire Dept. is responding to every call the ambulances are responding to.
- Commissioner DePuy explained: If we are successful and have one dispatch for Fire and EMS this problem will be alleviated. Currently there are two different political entities: Tallahassee Fire Dept. – dispatches fire trucks in the City and in the County – Sheriff's Dept. – dispatches the EMS county wide both in the City and the County. Depending on who you talk to there is a myriad of various answers as to who responds and why.
- Commissioner Sauls pointed out there is too much duplication of effort in emergency response.

*County Administrator Alam:*

*This is not really a dispatch issue. This matter involves a contract with the City – and their role. Fire trucks are going to roll with EMS as well as ambulances for this reason.*

- Commissioner Proctor asked Wayne Tedder to update the Board on the relocation of the Fairgrounds. Mr. Tedder indicated since the fairgrounds cannot be redeveloped until an alternative site is decided upon the focus is on a final decision for the site. Ran two sites by the Fairgrounds Board with Commissioner Sauls:
  - 1) Dept of Agriculture
  - 2) Between Tram Road and Woodville Hwy on South Side of Capital Circle – also Blueprint 2000 is looking at for widening of Capital Circle – problem is property is within City limits  
75% of site encumbered by significant environmental features  
City biologists have discovered approximately 1,600 protected species of plants and animal.
- Mr. Tedder stated Dept. of Forestry disagrees with City biologist. Dept. of Forestry recommendations are due out after Christmas. This will give Planning Dept. information they need to decide what their next step should be to address this issue. This site would include 100 acres and is well suited for the project.

*County Administrator Alam:*

*This site would be very inexpensive and would offer a lot of parking. We should try to acquire this site aggressively.*

## VI. PRIORITIZATION

- County Administrator Alam stated at this point the Commissioners would rank the ideas on each list. Commissioners can only pick 7 issues. Ranking is in the order of “7” being the highest priority and “1” being the lowest. Do not vote on the administrative issues. Scores for all seven Commissioners will be combined to provide an overall ranking. County Administrator Alam stated that 4 Commissioners would have to vote for an issue before it could be put on the priority list.

➤ The seven issues that met the criteria:

**Rank PRIORITY ISSUES**

- 1 Law Enforcement Issues including Consolidation/Joint Dispatch consolidate law enforcement including dispatch – pursue referendum - consolidated with Emergency Preparedness for storms, citizens review board, health issues/diseases, issues with evacuation routes i.e., (Woodville, Mahan) – four-laning.
- 2 Uninsured Healthcare – ½ cent sales tax – combined with Primary Healthcare Program advocated by TEAM & ½ cent sales tax possible uses: health care, performing arts enter, and financial support for FSU
- 3 Comprehensive Community Energy Policy- Strategies to promote solar power usage in Leon County, amend building energy codes, provide incentives to decrease cost of solar, outreach to community, climate-responsive design into building standards; Solar Power Pilot Project for Leon County Facilities – choose one building (Ag bldg) and test concepts, solar hot water heaters, etc. Comprehensive Air Quality Protection Strategy for Leon County, Leon County's air quality.
- 4 Countywide Lake Protection Program – need to protect all lakes
- 5 Woodville Library – need for funding
- 6 Spray Irrigation Impacts on Wakulla Springs
- 7 Redevelopment of Fairgrounds – find suitable location for fairgrounds

**Administrative Issues**

Wesson School  
 Gadsden County Hospital Closing  
 Sister County Agreement with Prince George's County, MD  
 Economic Development/Small Business Enterprise  
 Code Enforcement

- Commissioner Proctor stated he thought that item #22 – Unification of City/County Services and item #12 Law Enforcement Issues including Consolidation, Joint Dispatch had been consolidated as one item.

*County Administrator Alam indicated that if item #12 goes through then item #22 is a moot point.*

- Commissioner Proctor thanked the Facilitator, County Administrator Alam, Staff and the Commissioners for their work toward creating this list. Believes they have a challenging and exciting year ahead.

**VII. DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON PRIORITIZATION**

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

**Commissioner DePuy:**

Wanted to clarify his vote on an item. He wants it clearly understood since it appears that his vote was the deciding factor on the Uninsured Healthcare – ½ cent sales tax referendum item why he voted for it. He voted for this item for two reasons: 1) Represents the Board on the PHIAB Board and 2) in the fine print of this issue it says (Performing Arts Center and Financial Support for FSU). This wasn't just the issue of funding indigent healthcare in Leon County. Only reason he put this on the board was for the Commission to discuss it. Wants people to understand Commissioner Ed DePuy is not endorsing or supporting raising the taxes in Leon County. This is simply a discussion item. Wants his position to be clear for the record.

**Commissioner Proctor**

- Asked if the Board could call item #2 Comprehensive Healthcare instead of Uninsured Healthcare.
- Commissioner Proctor asked the County Administrator about the deletion of the Performing Arts aspect of the issue. Commissioner Thael agreed that was his interpretation also.

*County Administrator Alam:*

*The ½ cent sales tax cannot be used for performing arts. The statute would not allow it to be used for performing arts. It would go for indigent healthcare. Delete the performing arts aspect.*

- Commissioner DePuy asked if the vote was still valid.
- Commissioners Rackleff and Thael and Proctor agreed the vote was valid since that aspect of the item had been deleted prior to the vote.
- Commissioner Grippa stated Commissioner DePuy indicated the performing arts center aspect of the issue was one of the biggest reasons he voted for the issue.
- Commissioner Sauls indicated that monies from a ½ cent sales tax could not be used toward a performing arts center.
- Commissioner Grippa asked why Staff included the performing arts center clause.

*County Administrator Alam stated that was an error – it should have been deleted – it was just a typing mistake.*

- Commissioner Proctor clarified that performing arts is not related to indigent

healthcare. He stated that is one reason he tried to broaden the subject and call the issue a Comprehensive Healthcare Plan, so the issue with FSU in relation to using experts/volunteers in the medical field right here in Leon County is included.

- Commissioner DePuy stated he didn't vote for the issue because of the performing arts center which he does support – but not through raising the sales tax. He did vote for the issue in part though because of some of the programs that *could* involve working with medical students and the FSU School of Medicine.

*County Administrator Alam stated that if the Board had a consensus the Performing Arts aspect of the issue could be taken out.*

- Commissioner Proctor stated we have to make sure we include FAMU, TCC, TMH, and others along with FSU.
- Commissioner Thael asked if the injury prevention aspect of EMS could be considered an administrative issue.
- Commissioner Proctor asked the Board to discuss item #2 – Uninsured Healthcare – ½ cent sales tax referendum.

#### **DISCUSSION BY THE BOARD ON THE TOP SEVEN ISSUES**

##### **Uninsured Healthcare – ½ cent sales tax – combined with Primary Healthcare Program advocated by TEAM & ½ cent sales tax possible uses: health care, performing arts enter, and financial support for FSU**

- Commissioner Proctor asked for information on the report from the P HIAB Board
- Mr. Joe Sharp indicated the PHIAB Board voted to report to the BCC on the need for a comprehensive healthcare plan – indigent healthcare plan - and will be reporting on a 'straw man' model. It will come to the BCC in the form of an agenda item. At that time PHIAB will recommend/request the BCC authorize an agenda item to develop a healthcare plan. Included in that report is a recommendation for one of the two consultants to do a "cost out" of such a plan.
- Commissioner DePuy stated he would support looking at an existing revenue source from the County to provide a healthcare model. 1) Stated let's look at the existing revenues and see if we need to prioritize or reprioritize the current level of services we are providing in Leon County – on the record at the PHIAB Board meeting as expressing that view and secondly – the 'straw man' aspect of the PHIAB Board Plan being submitted to the Board in January is for the purpose of moving it forward – which means that anything and everything in it is subject to modification and change.
- County Administrator Alam: The part about revenues was commented on but was not voted on . Their was a vote on the comprehensive plan presented to PHIAB that the subcommittee of PHIAB had worked on.
- Commissioner Grippa – did the original vote for clarification include a ½ cent sales tax.
- County Administrator Alam – Yes, it is included in the Comprehensive Plan.



- Commissioner Grippa – so, essentially the PHIAB Board has voted.
- County Administrator Alam: – that’s why they are calling it a ‘straw man’ vote – It needs to be ‘costed out’. It is part of the plan that was presented to them by the subcommittee.
- Commissioner DePuy – PHIAB Board members would not vote for the plan unless it was submitted as a ‘straw man’ plan therefore subject to change.
- County Administrator Alam – The PHIAB Board’s recommendation will come to the BCC in January and will include a provision for a monthly status report from the Consultant. The BCC could provide comments as to changes they may want to see based on what may happen in the future.
- Commissioner Proctor asked about the timeline.
- County Administrator Alam - Timeline – Agenda item will come to the Board 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting in January – with the Plan - and the names of two potential consultants. The item will ask the BCC to Direct the County Administrator to negotiate a contract with one of the two proposed consultants. PHIAB is seeking a contract to basically ‘cost-out’ the plan. Estimate is \$8 - \$10 million. Costing out will be done by the consultant chosen by the BCC and then it will come back to the Board.
- Commissioner Grippa asked Chairman Proctor if the Board could look at the minutes to confirm the Board’s direction – that was an economist was to be hired – this was in the motion made by the Board. This would enable the BCC to:
  - look at how a tax affected the poorest people in the community vs. the richest,
  - what % of their income would go toward it if it was a sales tax vs. a property or MSTU tax and that was voted on by the Board.
- County Administrator Alam stated PHIAB did not do that, and could not do that.
- Commissioner Grippa then suggested that when the Board directs Mr. Sharp to do something as the BCC’s liaison to the PHIAB Board and PHIAB is unwilling to do it Mr. Sharp should let the Board know this so alternatives can be researched. Commissioner Grippa stated what he is hearing is that we are ‘costing out’ this entire proposal prior to doing basic due diligence the BCC asked for at the meeting.
  - Commissioner Proctor stated he is not sure the PHIAB Board functions in the way of receiving direction from the BCC. As far as he is aware the PHIAB Board does not have an executive director nor a budget to pay for a study.
  - Commissioner Grippa stated the BCC voted for it. So, if PHIAB cannot be directed to do the above-stated by the BCC it should come back to the BCC and that vote needs to be undone. The BCC voted with a majority to hire an economist.
  - County Administrator Alam stated the BCC ordered the PHIAB Board to look at the TEAM proposal and have an economist ...
  - Mr. Sharp interjected saying the PHIAB Board felt they did not have the professional or funding capability to do that.
  - Commissioner Grippa stated somehow we went from hiring an economist to research several components – i.e., regressiveness of a tax, to only one component that the PHIAB Board wants. Wants Staff to inform the BCC when PHIAB disagrees with the BCC’s request to find out who a sales tax affects more – the indigent or the rich.

- County Administrator Alam agreed.
- Commissioner DePuy stated he understood the consultant would acquire the information the BCC requested from the economist that was to be hired. The consultant, as he understands it will be the person who is going to give the BCC the information Commissioner Grippa requested.
- Mr. Sharp stated the language used in the motion that passed was that the consultant was to 'all funding methodologies'. It is assumed, in that language that the consultant will have access to an economist and therefore fulfill the BCC's request.
- Commissioner Proctor stated the recommendation comes back to the BCC to hire the consultant.

*Board discussion ensued over use of the term "Comprehensive Health Plan" vs. "Primary Healthcare Plan" especially considering the current proposed plan goes beyond primary health care – providing hospitalization, dental care, the proposed involvement of FSU, TMH, TCC, and other agencies.*

- Commissioner Grippa suggested the Board look at the statute as it relates to the definition of primary health care, the MSTU as it relates to Primary Health Care it may allow any kind of treatment; and it may not.
- Commissioner Proctor thanked Commissioner Grippa for making an excellent point and asked County Attorney Thiele the legislative idea of half cent has the scope to permit TMH, and FSU's involvement. To call the plan "comprehensive" may not be the best terminology to use to be in compliance with what the statute permits.

**Law Enforcement Issues including Consolidation/Joint Dispatch consolidate law enforcement including dispatch – pursue referendum - consolidated with Emergency Preparedness for storms, citizens review board, health issues/diseases, issues with evacuation routes i.e., (Woodville, Mahan) – four-laning.**

- County Administrator Alam asked if the Board wanted Staff to bring an agenda item to define this item. Is Staff supposed to set up a Citizen's Committee, a Consolidation Commission or what.
- Commissioner Grippa suggested there should be a Workshop on this item. What the law requires, etc.
- Commissioner DePuy asked the County Attorney if the County moves forward on an initiative for a Charter Amendment that would impact the municipal government – do they in fact vote on this also. He recalled the County Administrator's earlier comments that there had to be a majority vote in the unincorporated area and the same inside the city limits of Tallahassee. However, does the City Commission have to agree to this also and send it out to a referendum. Or do we know.

- County Attorney Thiele stated the answer is that we don't really know because there are many approaches we could take. First method – If the City Commission agreed with having a consolidated law enforcement entity then they could do a 'transfer of powers' which is permissible, - they could contract with the Sheriff which is another methodology, - the third alternative – could we amend the County's Charter to mandate that there be a single law enforcement agency under the direction of a single law enforcement head, be they elected or appointed. This last alternative would require a Charter Amendment, and the County might have to delete the section that deals with superceding city issues.
- Commissioner Proctor stated the BCC has fought to hard to eliminate the superceding language.
- County Attorney Thiele explained that right now our Ordinances are trumped by a like City Ordinance.
- County Administrator Alam stated City Ordinances supercede ours right now.
- County Attorney Thiele stated if the BCC deleted that clause from the County Charter, then the County's Ordinances would supercede any City Ordinance. This would require a Charter Amendment to achieve.
- County Administrator Alam stated that as County Attorney Thiele stated that last alternative mentioned is really not clear. There are varying opinions. The option of the charter being amended to delete the supercede clause is not necessarily a viable option according to some attorneys.
- County Attorney Thiele stated there is a case before the Supreme Court right now that would have analogous meaning for the BCC's consideration of amending the County Charter in regard to the supercede clause.
- County Administrator Alam indicated different County Attorneys have different opinions on this matter.
- For the record, Commissioner DePuy noted the BCC is happy with the County Attorney they have, Mr. Thiele.
- County Administrator Alam stated this issue should be reviewed since it is a very important, critical issue for County government.
- Commissioner Proctor wanted to ensure the BCC recognized that the top two priorities are moving toward going before the citizens in the form of referendums. This has never been done before. We want to make sure they are worded to withstand any challenges. Also, if this Board adopts these issues it would reflect poorly on the BCC for any member to campaign against any of these issues. The worst position any member should take would be a position of neutrality.

**\*\*Discussion of Welaunee Annexation Issue with the City– Not on List of Priorities**

- Commissioner Proctor asked the County Attorney to update the Board on the latest information regarding their vote against the Welaunee Annexation in terms of the Mayor/Chair meeting.
- County Attorney Thiele reported on November 22, 2005 the Board voted to object to the annexation, the objection was transmitted by letter to the City Attorney's Office

\*\*Not on list of priorities for discussion

the following day. Never the less, the City Commission voted to adopt the annexation Ordinance despite the objection by the County. He believes that vote is in violation of the Comp Plan. The City took the position that the basis for the County's objection was not legally right. However, the County did object. There is no provision in the Comp Plan that says 'unless we have a wrong reason for objecting' to something. What implications that has for their annexation Ordinance – whether this Ordinance is inconsistent with the Comp Plan – is an item the CAO needs guidance on because if the BCC wants to take the position the City's adoption of the ordinance is inconsistent with the Comp Plan there is a 30 day response frame his office would have to work within. An item would have to go on the agenda for tomorrow's meeting December 13, 2005 because waiting to address this until the January 10, 2006 meeting would go beyond the 30 day response time that started last Tuesday, when the City voted to approve it.

- Commissioner Proctor stated the City basically said the County's vote did not count for anything. This is a large, impactful annexation
- Commissioner Grippa agreed, and also mentioned part of the agreement included who was going to pay for the improvements of the roads. These are County roads, so the City is acting like they can do whatever they want whether the roads are City or County. That is their issue in Fallschase, they want the County to help them with the impact on the roads. Same thing on Welaunee – as well as stormwater, and the spray field and Lake Lafayette, etc. The City is ignoring the County as a government.
- County Administrator Alam pointed out there is a big difference between Fallschase and Welaunee since Fallschase is vested and Welaunee is not. With the Board's direction then the Welaunee item will be put on the agenda for the December 13, 2005 meeting.
- Commissioner Proctor stated the BCC voted on a matter in Leon County's jurisdiction and the next day the City challenged the BCC the very next day. Open meetings had been held throughout the process. The BCC was ignored and basically told their objections had no merit.
- Commissioner Sauls asked the County Attorney why these annexations were being put on the BCC's agenda if what the BCC votes to do makes no difference.
- County Attorney Thiele stated that is an excellent rhetorical question. The objection the City gave the Mayor at the Mayor/Chair meeting was that the City believed the County's objection was without merit.
- Commissioner Proctor stated that the City said that the County's objection 'lacked sufficiency'. It was not weighted enough, descriptive enough, it was vague and insufficient.
- Commissioner Sauls argued that it was a BCC objection and the reason for it was not the City's "call to make".
- Commissioner Proctor asked if the BCC would object to forwarding a letter through the CAO indicating that the substantial basis of the BCC's objection be given an opportunity to be heard and that the City not proceed. And that the substance of the matter should supercede the procedural nuances the City has addressed.
- Commissioner Grippa stated it is in the Comp Plan. The reason for the BCC's objection is immaterial.

- Commissioner Rackleff stated material comes back with more accurate information regarding the fiscal impacts of Welaunee. He saw the original Urban Services Agreement with the City about 15 years ago.
- Commissioner Grippa informed the Board the Urban Services Agreement the City executed with Welaunee has expired. They are entering into a new Agreement. In order to make the Agreement Welaunee has to be annexed in. That is the real issue.
- Commissioner Rackleff noted the original Agreement called for the City to pay for the urban amenities for Welaunee. The County was not expected to pay for anything.
- Commissioner Proctor asked if the County Attorney could solicit from the City in writing why the BCC's objection failed.
- County Attorney Thiele suggested he and Chairman Proctor ask their counterparts for an explanation and maybe that would help.

### County Wide Lake Protection

- Commissioner Proctor asked if we didn't have a uniform lake protection standard currently.
- Commissioner Sauls and Grippa indicated we do not.
- County Administrator Alam and Commissioner Proctor stated this is a huge issue.
- Commissioner Winchester stated the County could have a 50 yr standard for Lake Lafayette and the City could have a different standard so the County's standard doesn't matter if the City's piping goes directly into Lake Lafayette. Until we address the bigger issue saying our County wide Ordinances supercede – the County is sort of wasting their time.
- Commissioner Rackleff said if we have a County wide standard that doesn't contribute to the problem, no matter how large or small that is we could help move this forward.
- Commissioner Winchester argued the majority of the stormwater comes from the City. This is just geographics. 80% of it comes from the City.
- County Attorney Thiele informed the Board the priority item the CAO has been working on for the last few years on TMDL's was in a lull. What will get the City's attention is the Federal Register was published Friday. The EPA which took away the upper Lake Lafayette from the State Agency because they were not doing it on time – issued their TMDL's for the N.E. Branch which requires approx. 67% in the fecal coliform area and approximately 50 plus percent in the other coliform areas – The City had requested an 8% reduction. They got 67% reductions that is a huge issue that will make for a significant discussion.
- Commissioner Grippa argued that the TMDL issue can be resolved in one charter amendment dealing with water quality. If that charter amendment passes then our ordinances take precedence.
- Commissioner Winchester asked how can we amend the charter.
- County Administrator Alam stated this item can be placed on the BCC's agenda to be drafted as a referendum.
- Commissioner DePuy asked Commissioner Sauls if they hadn't talked about discussing these charter amendment issues at workshops.

- Commissioner Sauls stated they agreed to workshop the law enforcement consolidation issues.
- Commissioner DePuy stated now, we are talking about a charter amendment on the county wide lake protection standards.

*Commissioners agreed a number of issues could be solved i.e., water quality, dispatch, etc. with a charter amendment.*

Commissioner Proctor stated it was his pleasure to invite Vice Chairman Kessler, Wakulla Springs County Commission to speak.

Vice Chairman Kessler:

Mr. Kessler stated he was taking a short break from a meeting next door on septic tanks within the Wakulla Springs basin. He expressed great appreciation on behalf of his County for the Board's placement of Spray Irrigation Impacts on Wakulla Springs on their list of Priorities for 2006. Both Commissions have the attitude and will to work together for the good of both communities, especially since we are neighbors.

- Commissioner Proctor stated Wakulla Springs Commission came to Leon County's Chamber and also invited Leon County's Commissioner's to have dinner with them. It is Leon County's turn to invite the Wakulla Commissioners to something special. Be sure to tell the Wakulla Board this was a Board majority decision to place Wakulla Springs on the list of priorities for 2006 and that they were voted onto this list over several other projects.

#### Woodville Library

- Commissioner Proctor stated monies designated for Woodville were reallocated. Chairman Proctor stated do not put this project on the list only to deny funding for it again this year.
- Commissioner Sauls stated that it is Woodville's time. All she is asking for is that the Board set some money aside for this project and let it build up so we can get this library in that community.

#### \*\*Woodville Community Center

- Commissioner Proctor asked about the status of the community center.
- Tony Parks stated he believed they were about 60% on the plans, starting the process with Growth Management's requirement for review of the site and the plan.
- Commissioner Sauls asked if she heard correctly that a ground breaking would take place in the summer of 2006. Mr. Parks concurred.
- Commissioner Proctor stated the multi-purpose room can now accommodate 130 people whereas the original plan called for 90. Was very pleased.
- Commissioner DePuy informed Commissioner Sauls she can count on his support.

\*\*Not on list of priorities for discussion

- Commissioner Proctor stated he will support the library also.

**Sprayfield Irrigation Wakulla Springs**

- Commissioner Winchester stated he believes there is a report coming out on this subject. This item encompasses more than the Spray Irrigation – there is the Lake Lafayette, the stormwater issues, a sinkhole that migrates this way. Immediate focus is the spray irrigation, though.
- Commissioner Proctor asked about the reports on the south side water study.
- Andrea Simpson indicated she believed the reports would be on the agenda for the first meeting in January due to the large number of items on the December 13<sup>th</sup> Regular BCC Meeting Agenda.
- Commissioner Proctor stated he would like Staff to be mindful that two Commissioners have an interest in knowing how these reports speak to sprayfields, etc.

**Redevelopment of Fairgrounds Relocation**

- Commissioner Proctor indicated Mr. Wayne Tedder's suggestion of the Crawfordville Road site would be added to Commissioner Rackleff's proposal of the efforts already in place. Commissioner Proctor noted that as Chairman he did not add a vote to the Fairgrounds not wanting to sway any positions – but wanted to note the Fairgrounds Redevelopment is an important issue to him and close to his heart.

**Comprehensive Community Energy Policy**

- Commissioner Thael indicated he believed the Board did an excellent job in covering all the issues involved.

**There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.**

**The next Board of County Commissioners Meeting is scheduled for  
Tuesday, December 13, 2005 at 3:00 p.m.**

*Bill Proctor*

Bill Proctor  
Chairman

ATTEST:



*Bob Inzer*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Inzer  
Clerk of the Court